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Letter about teaching a course for the Institute for African Alternatives

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Boston University

7 Dartmouth Place
Boston, MA 02116
May 3, 1988

Professor Ben Turok
Institute for African Alternatives
23 Beveden Street
London, N1 6 BH
United Kingdom

Dear Ben:

How nice to get your letter!

The proposed MA course sounds like a great idea. I would of course very much like to be involved in any way possible. So would Bob. Are you thinking of participation from here? or perhaps coming over there? We would be happy to spend a term or more a year if it could be arranged. We are VERY interested, and our time is flexible.

To that, however, I must add one caveat: We have both been granted Fulbright scholarships to teach in Beijing, China, for the 1988-9 academic year, so we couldn't start till the fall of 1989. I don't suppose you'll get the program off the ground much sooner than that, though. (We leave in August this year. Our hope is to learn something from their 30 years of experience....)

You ask for other ideas. Here are a couple:

You know, of course, about the summer program we have set up here, which aims to assist Southern African graduate students, wherever they are located here in the States (there are about 1200 of them!) to work out appropriate research programs for restructuring the regional economies (including those of South Africa and Namibia after liberation). I am enclosing a brochure for your interest. We would welcome participation of students from your program if that seemed helpful. Under separate cover, I am also sending the proposed syllabus for this summer and last summer's participants' evaluation to give you an idea of how we structured it.

Incidentally, I think I can speak for Sibasiso Nkomo and Renosi Mokate, (respectively with PhDs in Political Science and Economics, who co-teach with us in our Summer program) as possible teachers in your proposed program. They would really be very interested, and good! They are both in ANC. They left SA in 1976, received their education here, and are acting chairs of their respective departments in Lincoln University; but I am quite sure they would give priority to working with ANC people at a graduate level -- and would go anywhere to do it.

The Southern African Summer Program is part of the International Development and Social Change Program, an interdisciplinary undergraduate-Masters program at Clark University, for which I am also enclosing the brochure. It was set up on an interdisciplinary basis with the support of the Geography, History, Sociology, Government and Economics Departments. If students want to take courses in other departments, they can, since the program is designed to provide flexibly the kinds of skills they need for their work. It seems to me that this might provide a kind of model for your proposed program, perhaps working with a number of universities (and particular faculty members) whom you consider appropriate.

Which leads to the question of certification. Clark is planning to work with another non-degree institution from another country which provides field work training and experience for third world students. In addition, Clark will provide six months of on-campus course work and supervised dissertation writing and the eventual certification. If you are interested in exploring something along these lines, let me know.

Bob and I are also very interested in your proposed research project on the Frontline. We would be happy to undertake any aspect you thought would be helpful.

In fact, we been working through the Association of Concerned African Scholars (ACAS - in which I am co-chair of the research committee) on research related to several aspects of the areas you mention. It was to stimulate essential research along those lines, too, that we set up the Southern African Summer Program. In 1986, we sponsored a workshop on Southern African agriculture, the papers of which will be appearing shortly in a book published by the Africa World Press. In 1987, we arranged a large conference to bring together work of people who had been working on sanctions against South Africa (with their implications for the frontline, the papers of which have been circulated to influence Congressional opinion to strengthen sanctions, and are now being collected into a book. This year, we held a workshop on how to deal with the IMF in Southern Africa, and the outlines of an alternative regional development strategy, which is supposed to be edited into a book (I suspect it will take a year or so).

Bob, as you know, has been working with legislative drafting students, focusing on constitutional problems for South Africa and Namibia. That work builds on the materials we developed relating to law and development for the three month-long legislative drafting sessions we had while we were in Zimbabwe with lawyers from the ministries of justice from most of the front line states.

Finally, I am enclosing a proposal that I put together following

the 1986 workshop I led in Botswana on the textbook I wrote, Money, Banking and Public finance in Africa (Zed press, 1986). Incidentally, ANC had a participant there. The proposal calls for further research relating to strengthening SADCC. SIDA, Ford, and CIDA have all indicated a willingness to fund it if it is initiated from Southern Africa. Unfortunately, the NIR was going through a change of heads, and didn't feel prepared to take it on. I discussed it with my Zimbabwe friends in the Economics Department while I was there, and Lawrence Harris said he would push it with them, but I have heard nothing further about it. I am not sure why. I still think the proposal has merit, and would constitute a valuable piece of research relating to strengthening the frontline states and SADCC as part of the process of imposing sanctions against SADCC, and the funding still remains available. Incidentally, the attached list of the 1986 participants would also provide contacts at the various SADCC universities for continuing research in this area.

I hope this is some beginning ideas that may prove useful. We are really excited about your proposals, and would love to help in any way.

Please give my best to your wife and our mutual friends -

Love,



Ann

enclosures:

SASF brochure

ID brochure

SADCC proposal

-ASP evaluation

SASF syllabus (draft 1984)